

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Purge of High North Korean Officials  
and Cultural Leaders

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1. PAK Hŏn-yŏng was dismissed as North Korean Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs on 16 February. He was dismissed for using his South Korean Labor Party (SKLP) faction to build up his own strength within the North Korean Labor Party (NKLP). Members of the NKLP close to PAK were blamed for poor results achieved by the underground and guerrillas in South Korea. When it became apparent earlier in the war that the United States rather than South Korea was the principal opponent, North Korean Communist leaders had felt it was unnecessary to keep PAK in a key position. This factor had contributed to his dismissal. North Korean leaders had also feared PAK would gain sufficient strength to make a stand against the pro-Soviet group in the NKLP. In mid-May PAK was being held in Kanggye (N 40-58, E 126-36) (BA-9837) where he was forbidden contact with outsiders and was not permitted to take part in public affairs.
2. CHU Yong-ha, former chief of the cabinet secretariat, was expelled from the NKLP for "encouraging the native Communist group to stand against the pro-Soviet group within the Party." CHU was publicly denounced by the NKLP as anti-party and anti-national. In mid-May, CHU was being held in a detention room of the Social Security Department in P'yongyang awaiting trial.
3. YI Sŭng-yŏp (2621/2110/9756) was removed from the instruction bureau of the NKLP sometime since early February 1953. In March CHO Il-myong was removed from his post as Vice-Minister of Culture and was later expelled from the Party. Others expelled from the Party in March were YI T'ae-chun (2621/3141/0193), KIM Nam-ch'ŏn (6855/0589/1131) and poet IM Hwa (2651/0735), all of whom were also expelled from the General League of Literature. The latter three were dismissed on charges of taking part in "factional activities within the Party and liberalism."
4. Shortly after CHU Yong-ha, YI T'ae-chun, KIM Nam-ch'ŏn and CHO Il-myong were dismissed, North Korean publications denounced them. However, no open

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criticism was directed at PAK Hŏn-yŏng because it was feared the publicity might have an adverse affect on former members of the SKLP now in the NKLP.

5. The purge of both high and low level NKLP members who belong to the SKLP or native Communist factions will be stepped up in 1953, with the movement to be led by KIM Il-sŏng's pro-Soviet group. The pro-Soviet group hopes to consolidate its power.

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